Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 12 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for failing to clearly recite the Markush group for the cell anchoring layer. By this Amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 17-19 to provide proper Markush language showing that the cell anchoring layer comprises either (i) a polyanion or (ii) a polycation. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to the claims obviates the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Purchio et al in view of Varani et al. However, claims 2 and 6 were indicated as being allowable.

Without addressing the merits of the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection to the claims, and in order to expedite prosecution of the present case to move it forward to allowance, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 17-19 to include the subject matter of allowable claim 2, thereby now reciting allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims now are directed to allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for immediate allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
LARSON & TAYLOR, PLC

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B. Aaron Schulman
Registration No. 31877

1199 North Fairfax Street, Suite 900
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 739-4900

ATTACHMENT A

Marked Up Replacement Claims

Following herewith is a marked up copy of each rewritten claim.

1. (Three Times Amended) A wound dressing comprising:

a carrier layer having a wound-facing surface, said carrying layer comprising a polymeric material adherent to anchorage dependent cells and treated on the wound-facing surface thereof to be non-adherent to cells, said polymeric material comprising a polymer selected from a group consisting of polyhydroxyethylmethacrylic acids, cross-lined polyvinylalcohols, polyacrylic acids cross-linked with trialkylsucrose, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyetherpolyesters, polyetherpolyamides, polyacrylamides, polyethylene oxide, polyurethanes and ethylenevinyl acetate copolymers, said surface being non-adherent to anchorage-dependent cells and having disposed thereon a biodegradable cell anchoring layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting of:~~one of~~

(i) a polyanion selected from the group consisting of a heparin, an inositol phosphate, fucoidin, syndecan, betaglycan, perlecan, dextran sulphate, pentosan, mesoglycan and polyvinyl sulphate; and

(ii) a polycation comprising a polypeptide; and

said anchoring layer having anchored thereto mammalian cells which form a cell layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting ~~one~~ of keratinocytes and fibroblasts.

6. (Three Times Amended) The wound dressing of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the wound facing surface is treated with a phosphocholine, a silicone, a polyethylene glycol or a polytetrafluoroethylene~~polytetrafluroethylene~~.

17. (Amended) A cell culture system comprising:

(a) a wound dressing comprising a carrier layer having a wound-facing surface, said carrier layer comprising a polymeric material adherent to anchorage dependent cells and treated on the wound-facing surface thereof to be non-adherent to cells, said polymeric material comprising a polymer selected from a group consisting of polyhydroxyethylmethacrylic acids, cross-lined polyvinylalcohols, polyacrylic acids cross-linked with trialkylsucrose, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyetherpolyesters, polyetherpolyamides, polyacrylamides, polyethylene oxide, polyurethanes and ethylenevinyl acetate copolymers, said surface being non-adherent to anchorage dependent cells and having disposed thereon a biodegradable cell anchoring layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting ~~one~~ of:

(i) a polyanion selected from the group consisting of a heparin, an inositol phosphate, fucoidin, syndecan, betaglycan, perlecan, dextran sulphate, pentosan, mesoglycan and polyvinyl sulphate; and

(ii) a polycation comprising a polypeptide; and

(b) a vessel having interior and exterior surfaces for containing a liquid culture medium for culturing cells and the dressing.

18. (Twice Amended) A method of treating a skin trauma site on a mammalian patient comprising the step of applying to a patient a wound dressing, said dressing comprises:

(a) a carrier layer comprising ~~a~~ a polymeric material adherent to anchorage dependent cells and treated on a wound-facing surface thereof to be non-adherent to cells, said polymeric material comprising a polymer selected from a group consisting of polyhydroxyethylmethacrylic acids, cross-lined polyvinylalcohols, polyacrylic acids cross-linked with trialkylsucrose, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyetherpolyesters, polyetherpolyamides, polyacrylamides, polyethylene oxide, polyurethanes and ethylenevinyl acetate copolymers, said wound-facing surface being ~~which is~~ non-adherent to anchorage dependent cells and having disposed thereon a biodegradable cell anchoring layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting ~~one~~ of:

(i) a polyanion selected from the group consisting of a heparin, an inositol phosphate, fucoidin, syndecan, betaglycan, perlecan, dextran sulphate, pentosan, mesoglycan and polyvinyl sulphate; and

(ii) a polycation comprising a polypeptide; and

(b) a layer of mammalian cells comprising a material selected from the group consisting ~~one~~ of keratinocytes and fibroblasts anchored to the anchoring layer.

19. (Amended) A method of preparing a wound dressing comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a surface which is non-adherent to the anchorage dependent cells on a wound facing surface of a carrier layer which comprises a polymeric material adherent to anchorage dependent cells and treated on the wound-facing surface thereof to be non-adherent to cells, said polymeric material comprising a polymer selected from a group consisting of polyhydroxyethylmethacrylic acids, cross-lined polyvinylalcohols, polyacrylic acids cross-linked with trialkylsucrose, polyvinylpyrrolidones, polyetherpolyesters, polyetherpolyamides, polyacrylamides, polyethylene oxide, polyurethanes and ethylenevinyl acetate copolymers;

(b) forming a biodegradable cell anchoring layer on a non-adherent to anchorage dependent cells surface of a carrier layer, said anchoring layer comprising a material selected from the group consisting~~one~~ of:

(i) a polyanion selected from the group consisting of a heparin, an inositol phosphate, fucoidin, syndecan, betaglycan, perlecan, dextran sulphate, pentosan, mesoglycan and polyvinyl sulphate; and

(ii) a polycation comprising a polypeptide; and

(c) culturing a carrier layer which comprises a non-adherent to anchorage dependent cell surface and biodegradable cell anchoring layer in the presence of mammalian cells comprising a material selected from the group consisting~~one~~ of keratinocytes and fibroblasts.